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“Once a new technology rolls over you, if you’re not part of the steamroller, you’re part of the road.”
— Stewart Brand

Bringing art, technology and

YANTRA 3.0 TO INJECT NEW ENERGY INTO THE TECH AND ART COMMUNITIES OF NEPAL

Himalayan News Service
Kathmandu

Robotics Association of Nepal (RAN), Karkhana Pvt Ltd and Siddhartha Arts Foundation's Education Initiative are jointly organising Yantra 3.0 — the third edition of robotic competition from November 8 to 15 in Kathmandu.

Promoted with the tagline — 'bridging the gap between art, technology and science together', the event incorporates robotic competition along with Art Tech Exhibit, Kids Workshop and Speaker Session. The robotic competition is sub-divided into three categories — 'Bridge to Lanka', 'Yantra Racer' and 'Yantra Akhada'.

The robotic competition will be held at Army Physical Training and Sport Centre, Art Tech exhibition and Kids workshop at Nepal Art Council and speaker session at Library Hall, Pulchowk Campus.

Sunoj Das Shrestha, President of RAN, says that winners of the robotic competition will be awarded with electronic goods worth Rs 200,000.

Target locked

Pavitra Gautam, Chief Executive Officer of Karkhana, says, "We have been looking for participation not only from engineering robotics clubs, but also from students of plus-two colleges and schools." According to him, altogether 40 teams comprising of 250 students are participating in the robotic competition. Eight different projects will be showcased at the Art Tech Exhibit, around 200 engineering and plus-two students will be participating in Speakers session and over 300 children will be participating in Kids Workshop.

Gautam adds, "We wanted to expand the event thematically and inject new energy into tech

community in Nepal. So we felt a conversation between artists and technologists was necessary and collaborated to bring art, science and technology together." According to him, Yantra 3.0 is the beginning of this conversation, between these 'neighbours' that barely speak each others' language.

"As Nepal's technologists architect new modes of living for the ever increasing

number of people who come into the realm of technology that is our cities and towns, it is important for us to provoke them to reflect on their motivations. An interaction with artists, who are trained in technological practices, is the best means to bringing about this reflection," says Sakar Pudasaini Founder of Karkhana, explaining Yantra's approach for 2014.

"Yantra will be about

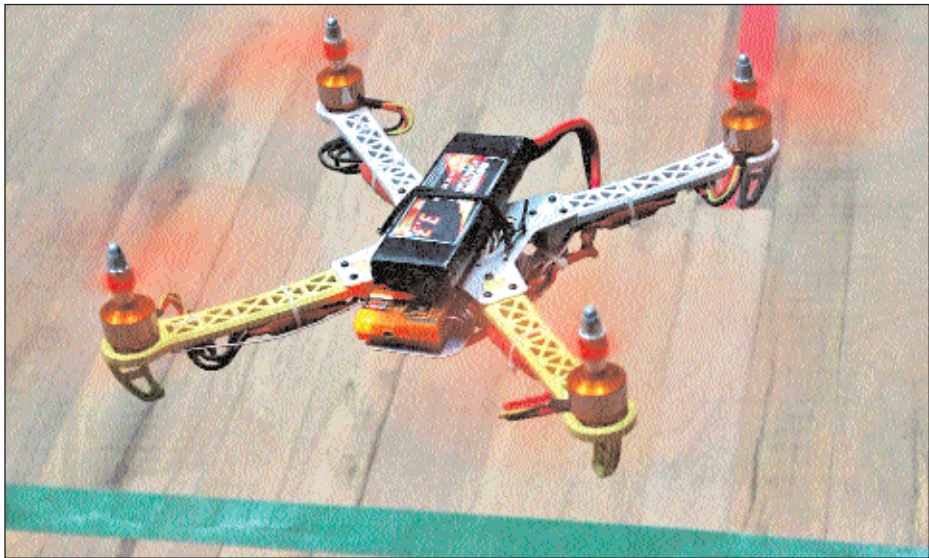
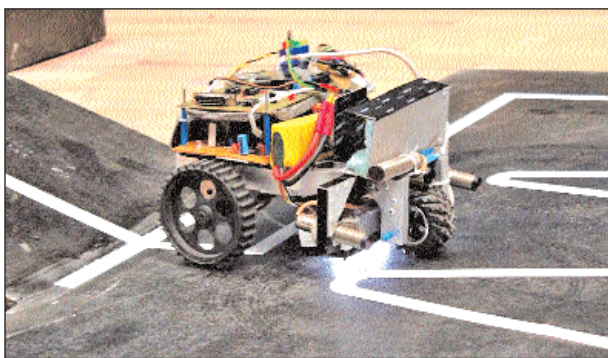


creating connections, to encourage cross-pollination, and inter-disciplinary approaches," adds Sangeeta Thapa, Director of the Siddhartha Art Foundation.

Major highlights

According to organisers, the event will prove to be both entertaining and informative where students can implement their ideas and knowledge creatively. Moreover, it will promote robotics in Nepal.

Briefing about the event this year, Gautam informs that this year 'Bridge to Lanka' is the main attraction of the robotics competition. Participants have to build a robot that is controlled



Robots en route

Sudip Phuyal, a student in the Bachelor of Electrical and Electronics Engineering at Pokhara University says, "I'm excited and thrilled at the same time to be in the competition to implement our innovative ideas into making of robots. We only have theoretical knowledge about robotics and the competition will provide us a platform to showcase our talent." Phuyal along with Ashish Danai, Sandesh Duwadi and Prakash Kafle have teamed up for the robotic competition.

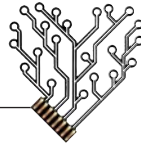
The Robotics Association



Robot design: Mechanics, design and hardware programming and Performance: Gameplay score. Similarly, Yantra Racer is an entry-level competition for participants under the age of 18. Participants have to build an automatic white line tracking robot and race with other. Yantra Akhada is an open competition, like a sumo wrestling where one robot has to push other out of arena.

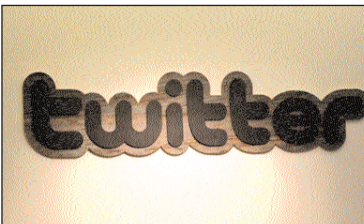
had already organised Yantra 1.0, Yantra 2.0 and Yantra Techkriti. Through this event, the association aims to involve maximum tech buffs in the latest advancements in robotics technology, art and Science by focusing on knowledge sharing and hands-on experience through team spirit. Also, the entrance fee for students and for normal visitors is free.

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Hiring business drives LinkedIn's revenue

BANGALORE: Corporate networking site LinkedIn Corp reported better-than-expected quarterly profit and revenue as more businesses used its services to hire staff. The company's hiring business has been thriving as employers find its services more helpful in assessing a candidate's suitability for a role. Strong growth in the hiring business and rapid expansion in international markets such as China are considered by analysts to be the main growth drivers for the company in the next few quarters. "In third-quarter, about 75 per cent of new members came to LinkedIn from outside the US, with China providing particular strength," Chief Executive Jeff Weiner said. "China has become the second-largest contributor to new sign-ups on a daily basis, after only the US," Weiner said. Revenue at LinkedIn's hiring business, called Talent Solutions, rose 45 per cent in the third quarter ended September 30, representing 61 per cent of total revenue. — Reuters



Twitter adding tweets

SAN FRANCISCO: After recent criticism of Twitter's plans to start showing tweets in people's timelines from accounts that they don't follow, the social network has stressed that it will "always be a real-time network". Twitter told users in October that it was testing ways to show "tweets we think you'd enjoy" in their timelines, but its chief financial officer, Anthony Noto, has now tried to reassure users that the company's priorities aren't skewed. "Twitter will always be a real-time network. That is our number one priority when we think about the user experience," said Noto during Twitter's earnings call after the company reported its financial results for the third quarter of 2014. Twitter has already been changing its signup process for new users, simplifying it 'from 12 steps to approximately six or seven'. Chief executive Dick Costolo said the new system "automatically creates a timeline based on what topics users choose as well as our browsing history", with the aim of reducing the number of people who register for Twitter, then drop out quickly. — The Guardian



GoPro sees strong sales

BANGALORE: GoPro Inc forecast better-than-expected holiday quarter sales, underscoring the increasing popularity of its wearable cameras among surfers, skydivers and other action junkies. GoPro's shares, which went public in June, shot up 14 per cent in extended trading on Thursday after the company also reported strong third-quarter results. Videos taken using GoPro cameras, which can be mounted on helmets, boards, bikes and dog harnesses, have made a big splash on the Internet. YouTube videos such as 'Run Walter, RUN!', 'Waltz On The Walls of City Hall' and 'Golf Trick Shot' have gone viral, helping GoPro's cameras gain popularity beyond sports and outdoor enthusiasts. "The social media side of the business had great metrics, with YouTube content up 92 per cent year-over-year and YouTube views up 99 percent," Wedbush Securities analyst Michael Pachter told Reuters. GoPro dominates the action camera market, with analysts estimating a market share of more than 90 percent. — Reuters

PROFESSIONAL PREFERENCE



AMUL SHRESTHA is the Chairman and Managing Director of Trans Weld Nepal Pvt Ltd. According to him, technology has made daily works easier and simpler. Shrestha spoke to THT Hi-Tech Plus about his choice of gadgets.



Which is your favourite gadget? Why?

My favourite gadget is Samsung Galaxy Note 3 as it is user-friendly and a stylish device.

Which of its features do you like the most?

I like its task manager applications the most. Other feature include its display, screen size, network, multitouch, sound quality, camera, HD video and image recording, Android OS, sensors, document viewer and its battery.



Which is the one gadget on your wish list?

I would like to own Samsung Gear S in the near future.

What happens to your Facebook account when you die?

WHEN A FACEBOOK USER DIES, THERE ARE TWO OPTIONS: DELETE THE ACCOUNT OR MEMORIALISE IT

CALIFORNIA: Perhaps having their lack-of-service highlighted by the Guardian will prompt somebody at Facebook to respond, but I wouldn't bet on it. Either way, you're right: there is no way for the average user — or even the average journalist — to talk to Facebook. The only thing you can do is repeat the process, as you have done, until it eventually gets through the system.

Facebook suggests that you provide "a link to an obituary or other documentation about the death". The form says this is optional but I would strongly recommend providing convincing evidence. If you don't, Facebook will tend to err on the side of caution, because of the risk that a request could be malign, a juvenile prank or simply mistaken.

If no one contacts Facebook, or if Facebook fails to respond,

the account will remain active indefinitely. The main risk is that it might be hacked and used to send spam, or worse.

There are two options: you can get Facebook to delete your late wife's account or to memorialise it. If you choose to delete the account, then all the comments, photos et cetera will also be deleted, unless you take legal steps to preserve them. This is a privacy issue. Facebook says: "The application to obtain account content is a lengthy process and will require you to obtain a court order."

If you choose memorialisation, Facebook changes a number of things: No one is allowed to log in to the account, You can't change, add to or delete existing content, which includes adding or removing friends, automated activities, such as daily quotes or horoscopes, are stopped, memorialised accounts don't appear in 'public spaces' such as birthday reminders, people you may know, or searches, memorialised accounts can only be accessed by the user's confirmed friends.

If you want your spouse or other family members to deal with your digital stuff after you've gone, it's a good idea to make a list of the log-on names, passwords, and associated email addresses.

You can leave instructions with an executor, but don't put password details in a traditional British will. When a will goes to probate, it becomes a public record. — The Guardian



Microsoft unveils fitness gadget, health tracking

UNLIKE RIVAL HEALTH SYSTEMS, MICROSOFT HEALTH WILL WORK WITH COMPETING PHONES, NOT JUST THOSE RUNNING WINDOWS

NEW YORK: Microsoft is releasing a USD 199 fitness band that also checks your email and even pays for coffee as the software company seeks to challenge Apple and others in the still-infant market for wearable devices.

The Microsoft Band will work with the company's Microsoft Health system for consolidating health and fitness data from various gadgets and mobile apps. Unlike rivals, Microsoft Health will work with competing phones, not just those running Windows.

Thursday's release of the Microsoft Band comes months before the much-anticipated debut of Apple Watch. Microsoft's gadget, however, appears more focused on fitness tracking and isn't meant to be an all-purpose smartwatch.

The Band will offer previews of incoming emails and alerts on calendar events, along with weather and other information requested through the company's Cortana virtual assistant. Cortana requires a Windows phone nearby, but other features work with iPhones and Android phones, too.

The Band will also have 10 tracking sensors, more than the typical fitness gadget, to monitor such things as heart rate, UV light, sleep and distance traveled. In a partnership with Starbucks, the Band will be able to create barcodes to make retail purchases through stored gift cards.

The Band will serve as a showcase for Microsoft Health, which follows the launch of Apple's HealthKit in September and Google Fit earlier this week. As more athletes and recre-

ationists monitor and record their fitness activities, a chief frustration has been the inability to bring data from one gadget into an app made by a rival.

As a result, nutrition information might reside in one place, while data on calories burned might be in another. Consolidating data — with users' permission — gives individuals and health professionals a broader picture on health. For instance, Microsoft says having information in one place could help gauge whether eating breakfast improves run-

ning or whether the number of meetings during the day affects sleep quality.

Microsoft Health marks the company's latest push into mobile and Internet-based services as demand for its traditional software products declines. It's particularly notable in embracing devices running Apple's iOS and Google's Android systems. In the past, Microsoft has been slow in making its services available for non-Windows systems.

"This is another example of the more agnostic approach to platforms being embraced under the leadership of Microsoft's new CEO, Satya Nadella," said Ben Wood, chief of research at CCS Insight. "Two years ago, supporting iOS and Android at launch would have been unthinkable." Microsoft is selling the Band through its physical and online stores. — AP

